

# The Great Eater in the Green Kingdom



Beginning Science



*Beginning Science Story*



# The Great Eater in the Green Kingdom

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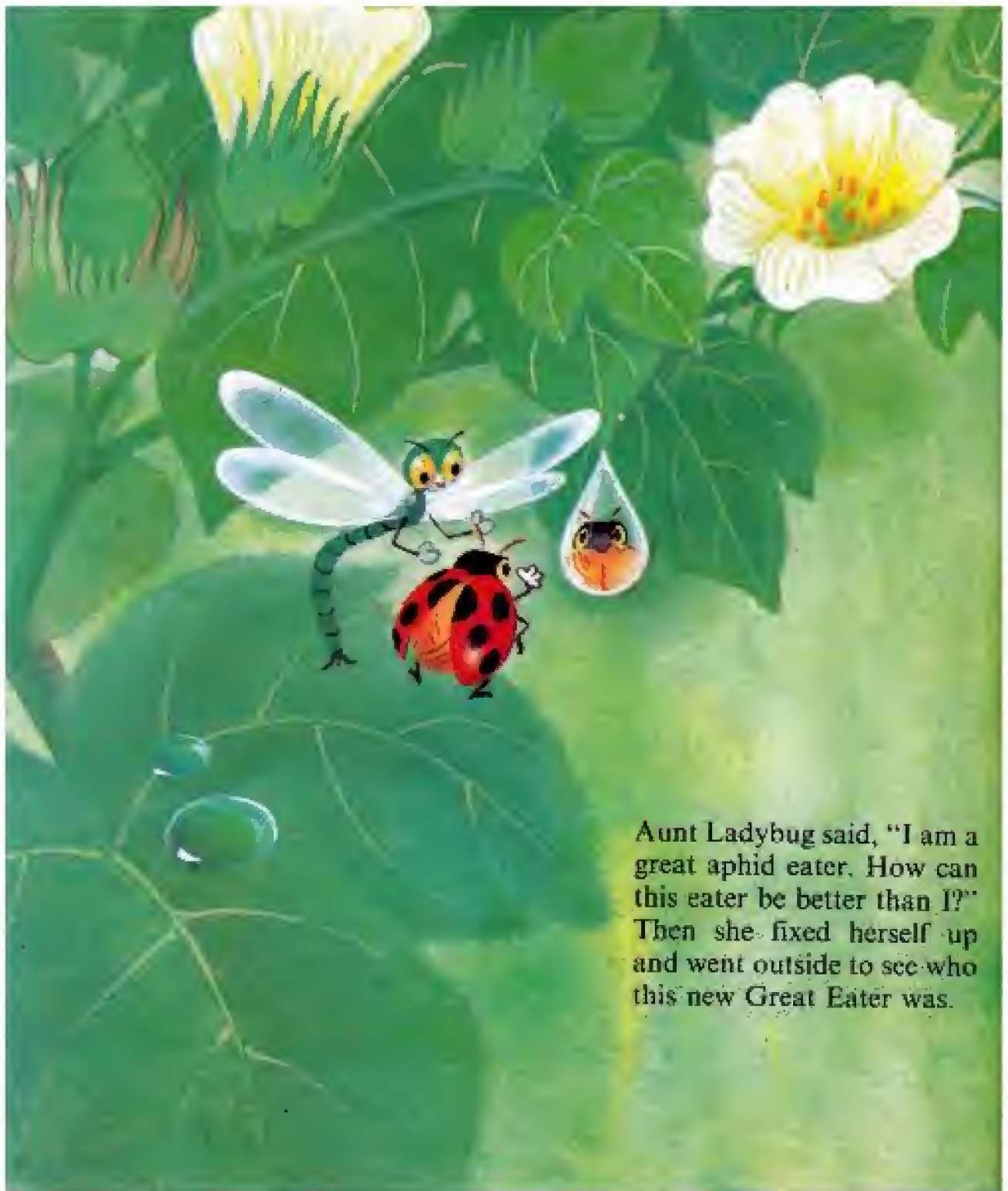
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A vibrant illustration of a cornfield. In the foreground, a large green corn leaf dominates the left side. A small, striped caterpillar is crawling on it. Below it, a ladybug is perched on a leaf. In the center, another ladybug is on a leaf, and a small green insect is nearby. To the right, a bee with a camera is flying. The background is a bright yellow sky. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

Little Bee is a reporter in the Green Kingdom. One day he said to Aunt Ladybug, "A Great Eater has come to our kingdom. He is good at catching and eating harmful insects."





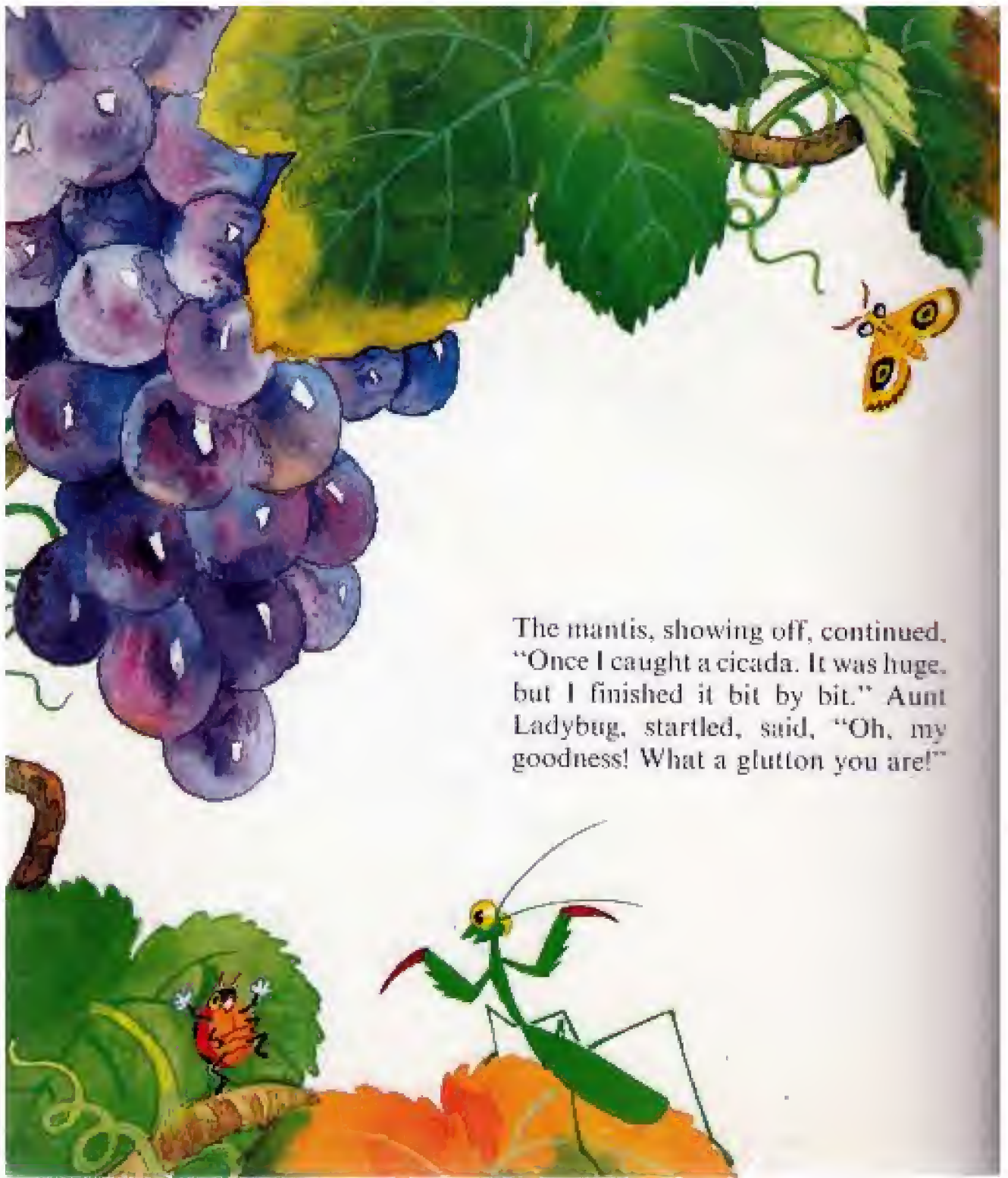
Aunt Ladybug said, "I am a great aphid eater. How can this eater be better than I?" Then she fixed herself up and went outside to see who this new Great Eater was.





Ah, it was a mantis! He was brandishing his two swords to show their sharpness. The mantis said to Aunt Ladybug, "I have a good appetite and like to eat any kind of insect. I am very gluttonous and my stomach is seldom full."





The mantis, showing off, continued, "Once I caught a cicada. It was huge, but I finished it bit by bit." Aunt Ladybug, startled, said, "Oh, my goodness! What a glutton you are!"



"Here is a little moth," she said to the mantis.  
"Can you catch and eat it?" "Of course," replied  
the mantis. He quickly turned his small triangular  
head around and thrust his two swords at the  
moth. The moth was caught.

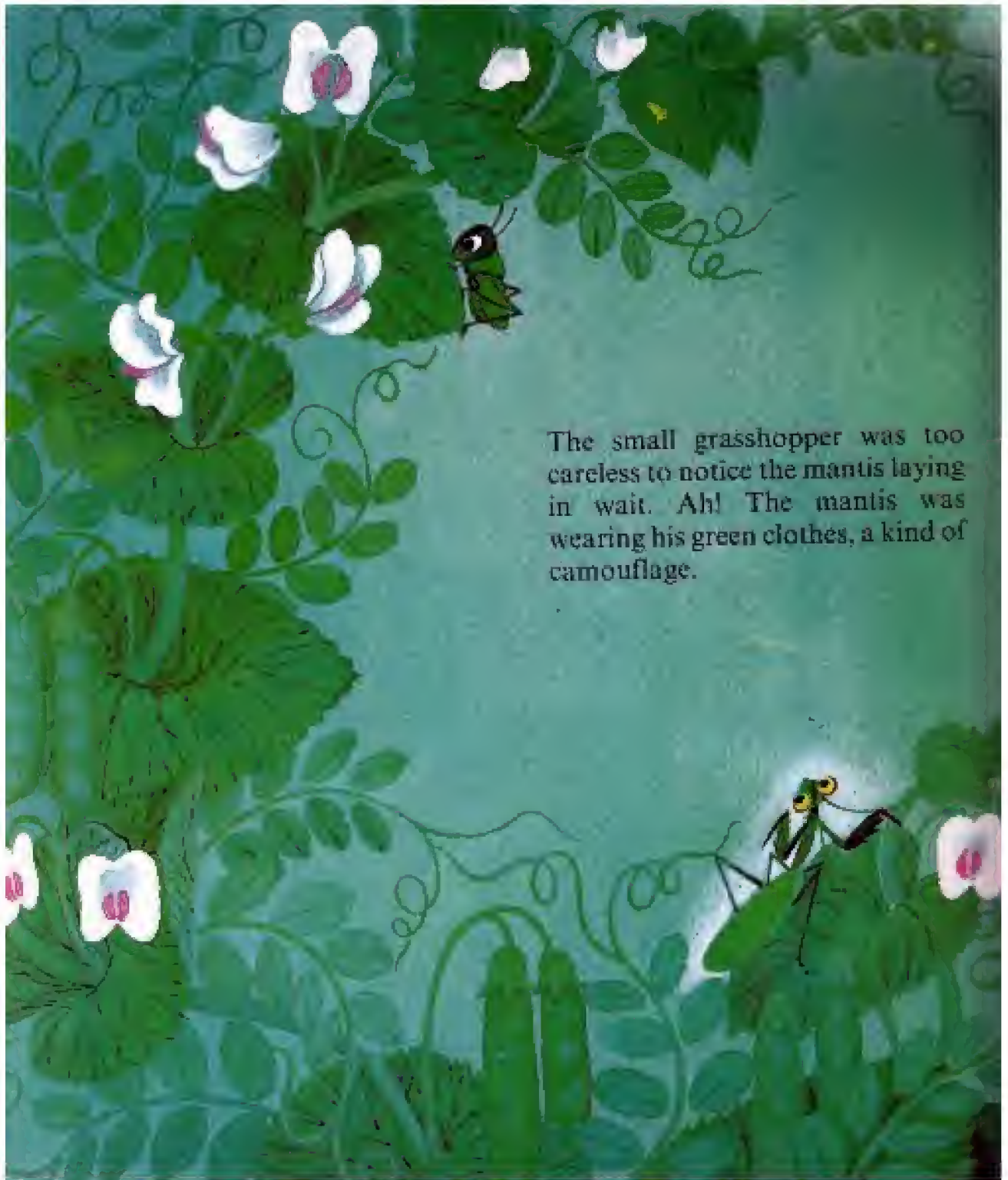






A small green grasshopper was jumping to and fro in the grass, enjoying itself very much. Aunt Ladybug told the mantis, "This small grasshopper is a scoundrel. Can you catch and eat it?" "Watch me!" said the mantis.





The small grasshopper was too careless to notice the mantis laying in wait. Ah! The mantis was wearing his green clothes, a kind of camouflage.



Hiding in the green grass, the mantis gazed at the grasshopper and walked towards it so lightly that not a leaf so much as trembled. The grasshopper was completely unaware.







All of a sudden the mantis stood erect, raised his forelegs and, in the twinkling of an eye caught the grasshopper.

Aunt Ladybug praised him, saying, "My dear brother, how skilled you are!" The mantis said, "It's nothing. Do you want to see how I catch a cicada?"

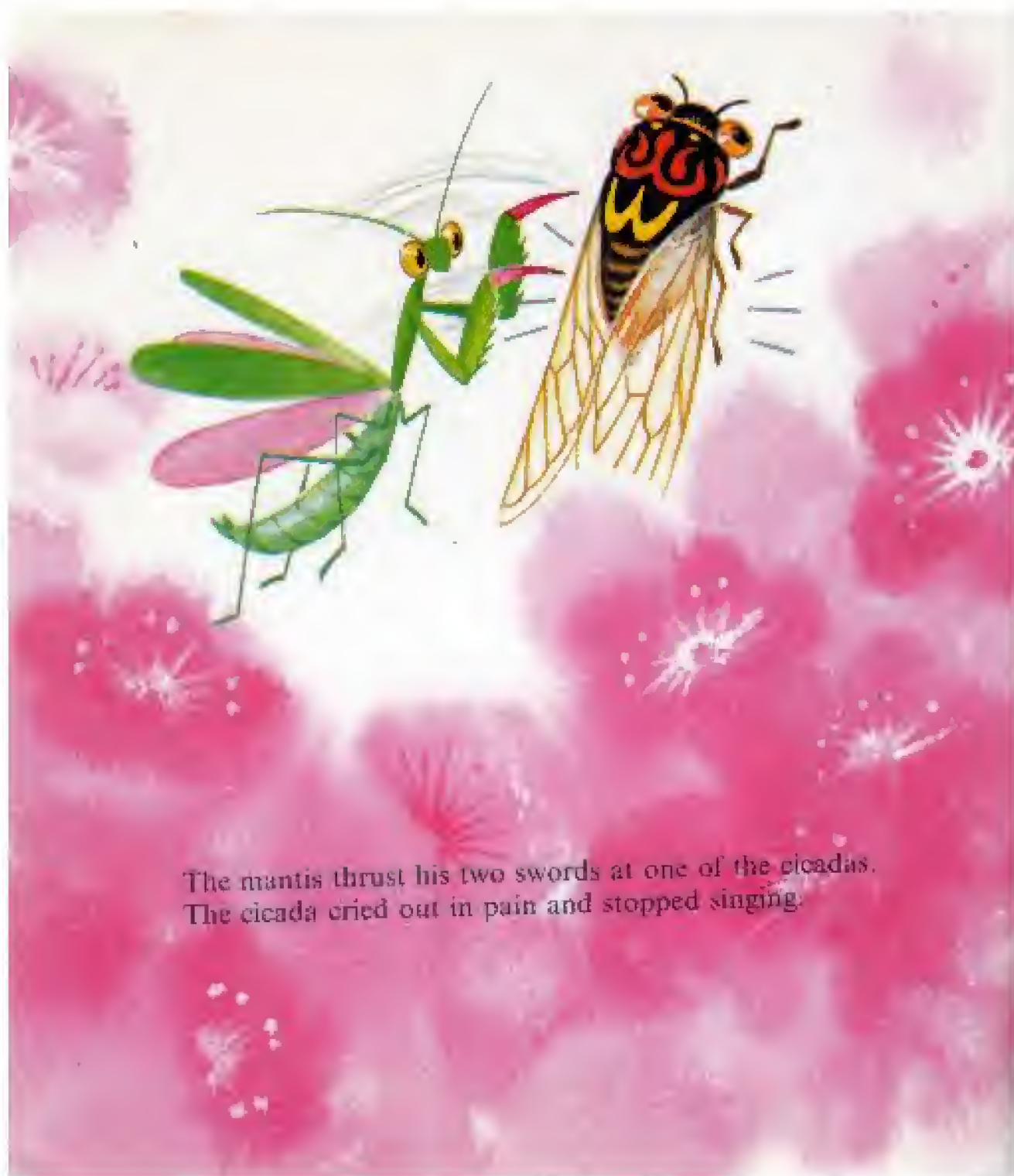






Just then two cicadas were singing happily in a fruit tree. The mantis quietly climbed up the tree.





The mantis thrust his two swords at one of the cicadas.  
The cicada cried out in pain and stopped singing.

The cicada struggled but could not hold its own. It was finally captured, and the Great Eater at once began to enjoy his sumptuous feast!



Aunt Ladybug was surprised and said, "That cicada is much bigger than you. How can you possibly eat it up?" The mantis said, "Don't worry, I'll deal with it bit by bit."








The mantis ate with great relish. It was not long before he had eaten up most of the cicada.



Aunt Ladybug watched him eating. She discovered that while he ate, he defecated. She exclaimed in admiration, "What a Great Eater you are! You've got a wonderful digestion!"

A large sunflower with a brown head and yellow petals. A small ladybug is perched on the sunflower's head. The background is a light cream color.

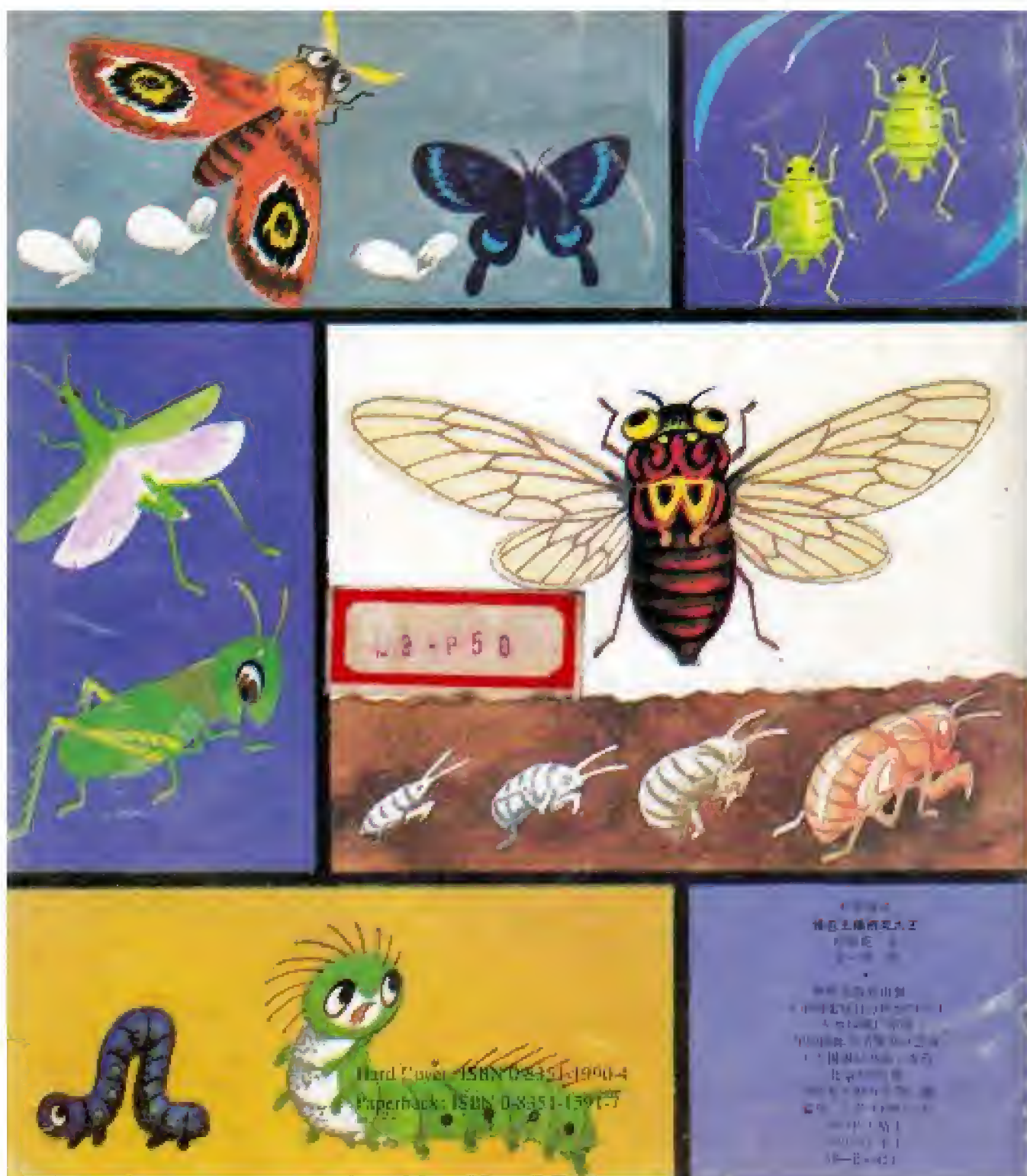
The mantis said happily, "Aunt Ladybug, you can eat more than a hundred aphids a day. You are an excellent eater too. Let's be friends!"







Little Bee flew over, raised his camera and took a picture of the two Great Eaters in the Green Kingdom.



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